

Amendment and Response under 37 C.F.R. 1.116

Applicant: Michael L. Rishel

Serial No.: 09/802,447

Filed: March 9, 2001

Docket No.: 10005084-1

Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING WEB BROWSER TRAIL MARKERS

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Final Office Action mailed March 31, 2004. Claims 1-19 remain pending in the application and are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,460,060 issued to Maddalozzo et al. Applicant submits that the Maddalozzo reference fails to disclose the invention of independent claim 1.

Independent claim 1 recites a web browser trail marker system. The system has a computer, a memory and a browser, and the browser has first and second button icons. The browser stores a reference to a currently accessed web page in the memory responsive to activation of the first button icon. The browser also accesses the web page referenced by the reference stored in the memory in response to activation of the second button icon. Only a single reference is stored in memory at any point in time due to activation of the first button icon.

Maddalozzo is directed to a method and system for searching web browser history. The method is directed toward a browser that searches URLs stored in a history file of a bookmark file and generates a list. Keywords may be searched for in the various web pages or bookmark on the generated list. Maddalozzo fails to disclose a web browser trail marker system as claimed by Applicant in independent claim 1. Maddalozzo does not teach or suggest a system where **only a single reference is stored** in memory at any point in time **due to activation of a button icon**. Rather, Maddalozzo teaches a system where many references are stored and a user is forced to cycle through them, for example using the forward/back keys, until the desired reference is located.

In response to this argument, the Examiner relies on a faulty assumption about the teachings of Maddalozzo: “[a]ssuming that Maddalozzo stores only a single reference at any point in time” (3/31/04 Office Action, p. 7). In fact, Maddalozzo does not teach or suggest storing only a single reference at any point in time. Instead, Maddalozzo teaches away from this concept. Maddalozzo teaches a process that is focused on searching through

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the multitudes of previously accessed web pages in order to find a target page or pages based on key word searches.

As stated in column 2, lines 23-25, “[i]t is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a method for automatic keyword searching, in the background, on the Internet, or in a cache of **web pages** stored on a data processing system (emphasis added). In column 4, lines 40-44, Maddalozzo teaches “[e]ven though the user may not remember which web page contains the subject matter in question, a search utilizing addresses contained in the history record/log may be made of **each web page** visited” (emphasis added). Finally, the Abstract of Maddalozzo teaches that “[e]ach **web page** is then searched for keywords provided by a user” (emphasis added).

In other words, Maddalozzo anticipates that many web pages are logged or stored and it devises a way to retrieve the relevant subject matter by sorting through the large volume of pages. It does not teach or suggest storing only a single page for later retrieval. It teaches directly away from this.

Because the present invention has only a single reference that is stored in memory at any point in time due to activation of a button icon, it provides the advantage of avoiding the accumulation of many references in memory. Maddalozzo, in direct opposition to this advantage, indeed teaches contributing to the growth and unmanageability of conventional bookmark lists, and provides no way to conveniently return to the previously visited web page even after visiting a very large number of web pages. Thus, Maddalozzo suffers from the same shortcomings of the art distinguished in the background of the invention of the present application (page 2, lines 5-27).

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the above rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) should be withdrawn. Dependant claims 2-5 depend directly or indirectly upon independent claim 1. Accordingly, dependant claims 2-5 are also allowable over the art of record.

Applicant also submits that independent claim 6 is not anticipated by Maddalozzo. Independent claim 6 recites a method for providing web browser trail markers. The method includes providing a memory location operable to store a reference to electronic content. The method also includes providing a user interface operably coupled to the memory location, the user interface comprising a first button icon and a second button icon, the user interface

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operable to display electronic content. The method also includes displaying a first electronic content in the user interface, where the first electronic content located at a first reference. The method also includes storing the first reference in the memory location in response to activation of the first button icon. The method also includes displaying a second electronic content in the user interface, the second electronic content located at a second reference. The method also includes displaying the first electronic content reference by the first reference stored in the memory location in response to activation of the second button icon, wherein the first reference is the only reference stored in memory at any point in time due to activation of the first button icon, and wherein only the first reference is displayed in response to activation of the second button icon.

For similar reasons as stated above with reference to independent claim 1, Applicant believes independent claim 6 to be allowable over Maddalozzo. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the above rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) should be withdrawn. Dependant claims 7-12 depend directly or indirectly upon independent claim 6. Accordingly, dependant claims 7-12 are also allowable over the art of record.

Applicant also submits that independent claim 13 is not anticipated by Maddalozzo. Independent claim 13 recites a computer-readable storage medium with stored computer instructions. The computer stores a first reference to a first electronic content in a memory location, wherein the memory location is operable to store a single reference. The computer displays a second electronic content on a user interface, and the second electronic content is associated with a second reference. The computer provides a first button icon and a second button icon on the user interface. The computer displays the first electronic content referenced by the first reference stored in the memory location on the user interface in response to activation of the first button icon and the first reference is the only reference stored in memory at any point in time such that activation of the first button icon always displays only the first electronic content referenced by the first reference.

For similar reasons as stated above with reference to independent claims 1 and 6, Applicant believes independent claim 13 to be allowable over Maddalozzo. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the above rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) should be withdrawn. Dependant claims 14-16 depend directly or indirectly upon independent claim 13. Accordingly, dependant claims 14-16 are also allowable over the art of record.

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Applicant also submits that independent claim 17 is not anticipated by Maddalozzo. Independent claim 17 recites a web browser operable on a single computer. The web browser includes a set trail marker icon where in response to selecting the set trail marker icon, a URL reference to a currently accessed web page is stored in a temporary memory. The web browser also includes an activate trail marker icon, where in response to selecting the activate trail marker icon the stored URL reference is used to access the web page located at the URL reference. The web browser also includes a user interface for displaying the set trail marker icon and the activate icon on the computer, wherein only a single URL reference is stored in temporary memory at any point in time due to activation of the set trial marker icon such that activation of the activate trial marker icon accesses the web page located at the single stored URL reference.

For similar reasons as stated above with reference to independent claim 1, Applicant believes independent claim 17 to be allowable over Maddalozzo. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the above rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) should be withdrawn. Dependant claim 18 depends directly upon independent claim 17. Accordingly, dependant claim 18 is also allowable over the art of record.

Applicant finally submits that independent claim 19 is not anticipated by Maddalozzo. Independent claim 19 recites a web browser operable on a single computer. The web browser includes a set trail marker icon, where in response to a single click on the set trial marker icon, a URL reference to a currently accessed web page is stored in a temporary memory. The web browser also includes an activate trial marker icon, where in response to a single click on the activate trail marker icon the stored URL reference is used to access the web page located at the URL reference. Finally, the web browser also includes a user interface for displaying the set trail marker icon and the activate trail marker icon on the computer.

For similar reasons as stated above with reference to independent claim 1, Applicant believes independent claim 19 to be allowable over Maddalozzo. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the above rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) should be withdrawn.

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CONCLUSION

In light of the above, Applicant believes independent claims 1, 6, 13, 17 and 19, and the claims depending therefrom, are in condition for allowance. Allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

Any inquiry regarding this Amendment and Response should be directed to either James R. McDaniel at Telephone No. (208) 396-4095, Facsimile No. (208) 396-3958 or Steven E. Dicke at Telephone No. (612) 573-2002, Facsimile No. (612) 573-2005. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

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Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, are being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, in an envelope address to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 1 day of June, 2004.

By Steven E. Dicke
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